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of this as well as that of the golden eagle, in protecting their young, has been unduly emphasized.

After photographing these young birds in the nest, I lowered them to the ground in a fish basket and kept them with me for some time so that I had a good opportunity to watch the feather development. They ate heartily many times a day, but were the most avaricious set of individuals that I ever had anything to do with. When they were taken from the nest there was a noticeable gradation in size, and the largest one immediately took advantage of this. Every time that I went to feed them he would peck and maul the other two until they stuck their heads down; then he would gobble everything in sight. I could not teach him better; and as soon as I removed him, the second largest one began to persecute the smallest one in the same way. Together the two larger ones killed the smallest one, and I think that this would probably have taken place in the nest in the natural course of events.

The white natal down began to give way to a sooty down when the birds were about three weeks old and this plumage was kept until it was replaced by the dark feathers of the immature bird. This dark immature plumage is not molted in the fall by the birds of the year but is kept at least until the following fall, so that the birds with the white heads and tails are two or more years old.

*Palo Alto, California.*

## FURTHER NOTES FROM SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND

By C. B. LINTON

**D**URING 1908 I added the following species to my early list of the birds of San Clemente Island, California. (See CONDOR, vol. x, no. 2, p. 82.) I wish to tender my sincere thanks to Mr. Charles T. Howland, lessee of San Clemente Island; and to Mr. Robt. Howland and the "boys" of Mr. Howland's various ranches, for the many favors extended to myself and party while working this island.

**Gavia pacifica.** Pacific Loon. A few individuals were noted during the winter months; not common.

**Cerorhinca monocerata.** Rhinoceros Auklet. Two specimens collected. Among the skeletons strewn along the rocky beaches were several of this species.

**Synthliboramphus antiquus.** Ancient Murrelet. During November and December, 1908, several Ancient Murrelets were seen and two collected.

**Brachyramphus hypoleucus.** Xantus Murrelet. One specimen, only, was secured here, December, 1908.

**Larus occidentalis.** Western Gull. By an oversight this species was not recorded in my previous records. Common; several pairs breed near Northwest Harbor.

**Puffinus opisthomelas.** Black-vented Shearwater. Noted near the island.

**Puffinus griseus.** Sooty Shearwater. Noted near the island.

**Mergus serrator.** Red-breasted Merganser. Several stragglers observed.

**Oidemia perspicillata.** Surf Scoter. Several seen.

**Porzana carolina.** Carolina Rail. While hunting in one of the deep canyons near Mosquito Harbor I found the partly-eaten remains of a Sora! The wings and

many of the feathers still adhered to the dried skin and skeleton. This I labeled and preserved. I have found numerous partially devoured remains of auklets, cormorants, etc., in the gorges a mile or more inland. These were victims of the small grayish foxes which are abundant upon this island.

**Pisobia minutilla.** Least Sandpiper. During December, 1908, I observed flocks of this species near Northwest Harbor; specimens shot.

**Ereunetes mauri.** Western Sandpiper. Noted with foregoing species; specimens shot.

**Calidris leucophaea.** Sanderling. Common winter visitant.

**Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus.** Western Willet. Seen at Northwest Harbor and Smuggler's Cove; December, 1908.

**Oxyechus vociferus.** Killdeer. Several seen with flock of Sanderlings and Western and Least Sandpipers; one shot.

**Accipiter velox.** Sharp-shinned Hawk. Several seen in the wooded gorges near Mosquito Harbor. One shot but lost in the brush, December, 1908.

**Asio wilsonianus.** Long-eared Owl. One secured, December, 1908. Three seen in the wooded canyons.

**Euphagus carolinus.** Rusty Blackbird. While making up skins in my tent door, Mosquito Harbor, December, 1908, I was greatly surprised to see a blackbird busily engaged in catching insects in the kelp along the beach. My surprise was doubled when, upon picking up the specimen, I discovered it to be a Rusty Blackbird, in fine plumage.

**Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus.** Western Savannah Sparrow. Several seen, December, 1908.

**Spizella passerina arizonae.** Western Chipping Sparrow. Two specimens collected, December, 1908.

**Spizella atrogularis.** Black-chinned Sparrow. One female secured in December, 1908.

**Passerella iliaca unalaschensis.** Shumagin Fox Sparrow. One female specimen secured November 30, 1908. Determined to be this subspecies by Grinnell, but not typical.

**Pipilo maculatus oregonus.** Oregon Towhee. One adult female secured December 4, 1908. This is the southernmost record of this subspecies.

**Dendroica coronata.** Myrtle Warbler. Fairly common winter visitant.

**Dendroica townsendi.** Townsend Warbler. One specimen secured. First observed flycatching in the kelp along the beach, Mosquito Harbor, December, 1908.

**Sialia mexicana occidentalis.** Western Bluebird. While collecting near Howland's Ranch, on the mesa above the Isthmus I was astonished to see a bluebird rise from a clump of bushes. I secured the specimen which was an adult male in beautiful plumage.

*Long Beach, California.*

## SOME SIERRAN NESTS OF THE BREWER BLACKBIRD

By MILTON S. RAY

WITH TWO PHOTOS

IN CERTAIN localities about Lake Tahoe, the Brewer Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) is a very common species. I found it in the greatest numbers at the southern end of the lake, and south, at various points in the lowlands, thru Lake Valley. Most were nesting in groves of small tamarack pines and